is targetted for completion by December, 97 and work is being progressed accordingly.

Allocation of funds to Maharashtra from Calamity Relief Fund

621. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the annual allocation to the State of Maharashtra from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) during the last three years year-wise and the basis on which these allocations were made;

(b) whether these allocations were sufficient to provide adequate relief to the victims of natural calamities in the State during the said period; and

(c) if not, what steps Government have taken to enhance the allocations under CRF to the State of Maharashtra form 1996-97 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The annual Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) allocation for Maharashtra during 1993-94 and 1994-95 was Rs. 44.00 crores each and the allocation for 1995-96 was Rs. 64.37 crores. The Ninth Finance Commission determined the CRF allocation for 1993-94 and 1994-95 taking into account the average of the aggregate ceilings of expenditure on natural calamities during the ten years period ending 1988-89. The Tenth Finance Commission made the allocation for 1995-96 taking into account the average of aggregate of ceilings of expenditure for the years 1983-84 to 1989-90 and the amount of CRF for the years 1990-91 to 1992-93. This has also been adjusted for inflation. As such, the annual CRF allocation is adequate to take care of the requirement of relief and rehabilitation in the wake of natural calamities. In any case the allocation is fixed on the basis of the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission for the period upto 1999-2000 A.D.

पटना और दिल्ली के बीच सुपरफास्ट गाड़ी

622. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार जनता की मांग को देखते हुए पटना और दिल्ली के बीच एक सुपरफास्ट रेल गाड़ी चलाने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) जी हां।

(ख) यह विनिश्चय किया गया है कि 1996-97 के दौरान पटना से दिल्ली तक लखनऊ के रास्ते एक राजधानी एक्सप्रैस चलाई जाएगी।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Experimentation of Biological Toilets in Tamilnadu Express

623. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICKHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an experiment of bilogical toilets was made in the Tamilnadu Express sometime during January-February this year;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of this experiment;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to these toilets obnoxious and foul smell spread all over the train and make the journeys of passenger uncomfortable;

(d) whether any Member of Parliament has made complaints about it;

(e) what is the fate of these toilets now; and

(f) the persons responsible for the huge expenditure incurred on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bio-toilet has been developed to provide environment friendly toilet system in coaches. This is aimed at keeping the railway track clean by avoiding discharge of human waste from the toilets and provide clean environment at railway stations. These toilets work on the principle of biological decomposition of human waste matter by bacterial action into gas and water. The system consists of a tank, Filter beds, Exhaust out-let for the gas and provision for discharge of clear liquid on the track.